



# Southwest *Church of the Nazarene*

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## WORK + EVALUATION = REWARD

In Sunday's message, I mentioned how many of us have been through some sort of evaluation in our lifetime. These can create anxiety for sure – wondering if your efforts are good enough or if your good efforts will go unnoticed. As Mark Twain once remarked, "It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them." For believers, the good news is that God knows all that we are doing and attempting for His kingdom. No one may recognize your praying for lost people, the church, or your friends and family, but please know God is very aware. When you care for someone, He knows. When you serve, give, or share your faith... He knows. And He rewards.

The Hebrew writer shares this encouragement, "Dear friends... We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. For God is not unjust. **He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.** Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others, as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. Then, you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance. (Heb. 6:9-12, New Living Translation).

Working is very tiring to the body, mind, and soul, but knowing there is a reward keeps us going... giving us motivation to pray a few more prayers, serve a few more times, and give just a little more. Followers of Christ do not work for rewards, instead they work because of their

love for the Lord. So, if you are a little weary, and your steps are getting slower, remember "He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers..."

Thomas Kempis writes, "Do not be worn out by the labors which you have undertaken for My sake, and do not let tribulations ever cast you down. Instead, let My promise strengthen and comfort you under every circumstance. I am well able to reward you above all measure and degree. You shall not toil here long nor always be oppressed with griefs. A time will come when all labor and trouble will cease. Labor faithfully in My vineyard; I will be thy recompense. Life everlasting is worth all these conflicts, and greater than these. Are not all plentiful labors to be endured for the sake of life eternal? Lift your face therefore to heaven; behold I and all My saints with me – who in this world had great conflicts so are now comforted, now rejoicing, now secure, now at rest, and shall remain with Me everlastingly in the kingdom of My father" (Thomas Kempis).

Reward day is coming for the believer. Keep at it, stay strong, and keep making ground for the Kingdom! Jesus, in the Revelation, encouraged John by saying "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last" (Rev. 22:12-13, NKJV).

Stay faithful my friend!

Pastor Scott & Cindy

# "I Can Only Imagine"

I can only imagine  
What it will be like  
When I walk by Your side  
I can only imagine  
What my eyes will see  
When Your face is before me  
I can only imagine

I can only imagine  
When that day comes  
And I find myself standing in the Son  
I can only imagine  
When all I will do  
Is forever, forever worship You  
I can only imagine

Surrounded by Your glory  
What will my heart feel  
Will I dance for You Jesus  
Or in awe of You be still  
Will I stand in Your presence  
Or to my knees will I fall  
Will I sing hallelujah  
Will I be able to speak at all  
I can only imagine  
I can only imagine

Bart Millard  
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Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential  
Music Publishing LLC]) CCLI Song #  
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## 1 Corinthians 3:11-14 NKJV

*<sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup> If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.*

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Thanks to Katie Stamm (See Matthew 6:19-20) 09-23-2002

### ATTENTION ONLINE GIVERS:

We wanted to give you a "heads up" on some changes coming with our online giving platform. The platform is being upgraded on March 2, 2021. You will soon be sent a message to the email address you had on file regarding the process you need to take with updating your account. Nothing needs to be done at this point, but once you receive your email message, please follow any necessary steps outlined in that message to update your account and to be made aware of any website changes upcoming.

## Praises:

- Praise the Lord for Emily and Chris Elmore's new baby boy, Wyatt Christopher Elmore. He entered our world weighing 6lbs 4oz, and was 19 inches long. Baby and mom are doing well!
- Praise the Lord for our new and transferred members Sunday! The Charles Family and the Sturgeons are now a part of the Southwest Family! Let's encourage them with our friendship, love and support.
- Praise the Lord for a baby dedication this Sunday, and more new members to receive! God is working in our church in an exciting, multicultural way! Praise the Lord for our friends from Africa!

## Prayer Needs:

- Please pray for the Swahili Church – Be in prayer for this ministry as those involved are working out details and looking forward to meeting together very soon. We need prayer partners to be praying for the Swahili Church and will need individuals to step up and assist in some categories such as Power Point, Sound, as Greeters.

**The personal prayer needs can be found in the emailed and mailed versions of the newsletter.**

## Upcoming Events:

- February 27th, Saturday – Celebrate Life at Westside COTN (Nazarene Youth)
- February 28th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service: District Superintendent Dr. Ron Blake will be speaking.
- February 28th, Sunday – End of Church Year
- March 4th, Thursday – End of Church Year: Reports Due (SDMI, NMI, NYI, Treasurers, Etc.)
- March 7th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service: Annual Church Elections
- March 8th, Monday – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- March 14th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service
- March 21st, Sunday – 10:30am Worship Service: Olivet Music & Preaching Ambassadors
- March 22nd, Monday – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- March 28th, Sunday – 10:40am Palm Sunday Worship Service
- April 4th, Sunday – 10:40am Easter Sunday Worship Service
- April 5th, Monday – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- April 11th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service
- April 18th, Sunday – 10:30am Worship Service
- April 19th, Monday – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- April 25th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service
- May 2nd, Sunday – 10:30am Worship Service
- May 2nd, Sunday – 5:00to 8:00pm District Assembly

Join us for Prayer Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:30pm! Let's bring our petitions to the Lord and pray for one another!

# Important Updates for the Annual Church Meetings, Conventions and District Assembly 2021

## Annual Church Meeting

From Office District:

Because of the pandemic, the Board of General Superintendents has approved some temporary rulings regarding the Annual Church meeting. They are as follows:

- The church board, with the approval of the district superintendent, may vote to continue with the church officers that are currently in place. This would be the Local Church Board, the SDMI, NMI, and NYI leadership.
- You may meet electronically. Voting methods shall be approved by the Local Church Board. All communications and voting required may be carried out electronically.

\*Southwest Church has adopted carrying its boards and leaders over for the 2021 year. However, we have one board member who has decided not to stay on this year, therefore, we need to elect one board member this year. There will be no elections for delegates, only an appointment of delegates to view the District Assembly at the TBD location.

Southwest Annual Church Election will take place Sunday, March 7, at the morning worship service at 10:40am. When you arrive, at the entry table all MEMBERS (those who have been received into membership to the Southwest Church, not simply attending), can pick up a ballot at the table, fill it out and place it in the offering box in the back of the sanctuary before or after the services. Appointed Tellers will then tally the ballots following the service. An announcement will be made in the next week's newsletter.

**SDMI/NYI and NMI Conventions will be virtual (online viewing only) this year.** More details will be given in the days ahead.

## District Assembly 2021

**May 2 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

From the Indy District Office:

District Assembly will look a little different this year. It will be a "Hybrid Assembly." This means that there will be a central location where the business of the assembly will transpire. At the location will be Dr. David Graves, GS; Dr. Ron Blake, DS, Rev. Josh Robertson, district secretary, support staff, ordination candidates (and spouses) and their guests.

The service will then be streamed to different locations across the district. We are asking that pastors and delegates in those areas go to these locations (still to be determined). The different locations will be treated as an extension of the assembly. There will be a way for anyone at these sites to communicate with the main location when committee reports are presented as if we were all in one room.

Upon the recommendation of the General Superintendent, there will be no election of officers. The current officers will serve for one more year. However, delegates will still need to be present. We will be hearing from Dr. Graves and Dr. Blake, receiving reports, and having an ordination service.

\*\*\*Please note - Dr. Blake, is approving the following plan for those churches who will NOT be having elections this year due to the pandemic: The church board, acting as the nominating committee, will appoint those eligible to be delegates to the assembly.

Thank you for your understanding and patience!

Blessings,  
Pam

## Year End Help with Missions

We are wrapping up the church year but are a little short on meeting our goals for Missions. If you made a pledge for Faith Promise and got behind on your giving, or if you would like to help take care of the final amounts we want to give, please send it via online giving, regular mail, or bring it with you this Sunday. We appreciate your giving! We love supporting our missionaries, as well as being a ten percent giving church each year! Thanks in advance, and may the Kingdom of God increase!

